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NEWS RELEASE

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Mexican National Sentenced for Document Fraud

Chicago, IL - Brian R. Perryman, District Director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, together with Scott R. Lassar, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, announced the sentencing of a Mexican national for the production, sale and distribution of counterfeit identity documents.

Isaias Martinez-Jaramillo, age 31, of 3238 S. 49th Avenue in Cicero and an illegal alien from Mexico, was sentenced February 14 by U.S. District Court Judge James B. Zagel to 27 months in prison. Upon completion of his sentence Martinez-Jaramillo will be turned over to INS custody for deportation proceedings.

On April 28, 1999, Martinez-Jaramillo was arrested as part of a cooperative effort between the INS and the U.S. Postal Inspector's Office. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) intercepted two packages containing approximately 2,000 blank green cards and Social Security cards that were being mailed to two different addresses in the south Cicero area. A controlled delivery of the packages by INS and USPS identified Martinez-Jaramillo as the recipient of both packages.

A search of the apartment at 3238 S. 49th Avenue revealed that Martinez-Jaramillo was preparing counterfeit documents at his residence and selling the completed documents to illegal aliens in the Little Village area of Chicago. The INS also confiscated equipment and materials used in the production of counterfeit documents from the apartment.

Counterfeit documents sell on the street for approximately \$120 a set, which includes a false social security card and a false "green card."

"The INS is cracking down on criminals who manufacture and sell false documents," said INS District Director Brian R. Perryman. "Our Special Agents are out on the streets in Chicago to ensure that these documents do not get into the hands of this country's illegal workers."

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